SMALL CHANGE.

Claptrap talk about "Wall street" should not deceive anyone into voting for cheap dollars. So far as the stock brokers and speculators of Wall street are concerned it makes no difference what kind of money we have. In fact, they are not very anxious to have a stable financial system, as they profit most when prices fluctuate. Wall street is simply a "bogey" to scare innocent farmers and workingmen.

The silverites are growing desperate as they realize that they are losing ground, and are now abusing the business men of the country as well as the bankers. In a recent magazine article the author of "Coin's Financial School" attacks merchants and traders generally, classing them with "money changers" as enemies of mankind. Such nonsense indicates the mental calibre of the would-be teachers of the people on the important question of our money, and will open the eyes of any business men who may have been for the moment deluded into believing some of the free silver fallacies.

For people who do not think for themselves the weight of mere numbers has great authority. So when they find evidence of a widespread agitation for free silver they say: "See how this idea is spreading. There must be something in it." There is something in it, but it is only what the small boy found when he cut his drum open to see what made the sound—wind. Any scheme which promises men wealth without working for it will get some followers, especially if it is backed up by powerful interests like the silver mine owners. But it will die out just as soon as the people find they have been deceived, as most of the followers of free coinage are finding out.

"There is not enough metal money to do the business of the country," is the confident assertion of the silverites, on which they base a plea for cheap dollars. They are altogether wrong. It is true that there is not enough money if all business was done on a cash basis. But each year more and more of the total volume of exchanges of goods is carried on with our system of bank credits, by which business is done with very little money. As our banking system is perfected and extended the need for money in settling accounts grows constantly less. If metal money alone was used, all the silver in the world would not be a tenth of the amount needed for this country's business.

While some of the silverites deny that they believe in fiat money, all their arguments in favor of fifty cent dollars are used by greenbackers and Coxeyites as reasons for the adoption of their schemes. Ask any honest advocate of free silver whether he believes that the Government's stamp can make 412½ grains of silver worth one gold dollar. He will promptly answer "yes." Then ask him if the Government can make a piece of paper worth a gold dollar by merely printing "one dollar" on it. Nine times out of ten he will again answer "yes." Of course he will be wrong, as it is not the words "one dollar" which makes paper currency circulate, but the fact that the Government will redeem it with a gold dollar. A paper promise to pay "one dollar" would be no good if it could not be redeemed. But the fact that silverites believe that the Government's stamp makes values shows that their ideas of the nature of money are the same as those of the Populists and other fiatists.

The Greedy Silver Pig.

This greedy silver pig nearly destroyed Uncle Sam's industrial garden two years ago. After a hard fight he was driven out and the silver-purchase law hole, through which he got in, was

closed up. Now he is rooting around outside and grunting that he will be a good hog if let in again, and will make crops come up faster than they do now. But Uncle Sam has learned by his former experience just how the crops come up, and having got the rooter out, intends to keep him out.

Intoxicated With Free Silver.

Why do the Iowa Prohibitionists howl for free silver at the rate of 16 to 1? What has free silver to do with prohibition? The Prohibitionists should declare for bichloride of gold.—New York Sun.

A TRUE PICTURE

OF SOME OF THE EVILS OF FREE COINAGE.

Secretary Carlisle States Plainly Why Debtors Would Not be Benefitted and Why Everybody Else Would be Injured by Free Coinage.

Mr. Chairman, no man can foretell with certainty all the consequences that would follow a sudden change in our standard of value from gold to depreciated silver, but in my opinion they would be most disastrous to the material interests of our people. Of course, the obligation of all contracts existing at the time the change is made would be seriously impaired; credit, which constitutes the very foundation of all industrial and commercial activity and prosperity, would be destroyed for a long time at least; our domestic trade would be paralyzed until values could be readjusted so as to conform to the altered monetary system; the funds of widows and orphans and others in the hands of guardians, executors and other fiduciaries would be at once diminished about one-half, and the estates of the intended beneficiaries would be divided about equally between them and their trustees. Just as soon as it became reasonably certain that a free coinage law would be enacted, every man whose obligation had matured would be compelled to pay it, or have his property sacrificed at forced sale under judicial process; for I assume no sensible creditor would stand quietly by and wait for the passage of a law confiscating about one-half of his claim. Debtors who think that they are to be benefited by this policy will be most egregiously mistaken, unless their obligations have many years to run before maturing. Banks could not make any loans to the people, because every man who had a deposit in them would rush at once for his money, for fear he might be paid in a depreciated currency, and therefore the banks, instead of granting new loans, would be compelled by the demands upon them to insist upon the immediate payment of all their discounts then outstanding. The contraction of the currency by the expulsion of $631,000,000 in gold would diminish the ability of the debtor to pay his obligation at the very time when payment was most urgently demanded. In this general collapse of credit and destruction of business, those who would be most injured are the very people to whom most has been promised by the free coinage advocate—the great producers of the country, the farmers and the laborers in our mechanical and agricultural industries.

It is unquestionably true that no part of our people is so vitally interested in the preservation of a sound and stable currency as the men and women who work for wages (applause), and in the term wages I include salaries and compensation in every form paid for personal services in all the occupations of life. The evils of a depreciated and fluctuating currency must always fall most heavily upon the poor, who do not produce for themselves but for others, and who are, therefore, compelled to purchase with their wages everything they eat, drink and wear. Their wages will remain stationary, or at best they will rise slowly and at long intervals, while the prices of the necessaries of life are liable to rise suddenly from day to day as the value of the currency changes, and, consequently, what may appear to be a fair rate of compensation at the time a labor contract is made may prove to be grossly inadequate long before the labor is performed. The laborer cannot protect himself against fluctuations in the prices of commodities, for he cannot purchase at wholesale when prices are low, and keep out of the markets when prices are high; he must buy day by day, and he must pay out of his earnings, whether their purchasing power be great or small. The employer cannot afford to promise higher wages in advance, because with a depreciating and fluctuating currency he cannot possibly foretell what the prices of his products will be at any time in the future. Thus the laborer is the victim of two influences neither of which can he successfully resist. He must accept whatever wages are offered by employers or go without work, and he must pay whatever prices are demanded in the markets or go without food.—Hon. John G. Carlisle, at Louisville, Ky.

The Grime Was Still In Sight.

Fellaire, formerly Rusty Rufus, regarded the greasy mendicant with the eye of an expert.

"Pard," he said, "honest Injun, now, how long have you been in the business?"

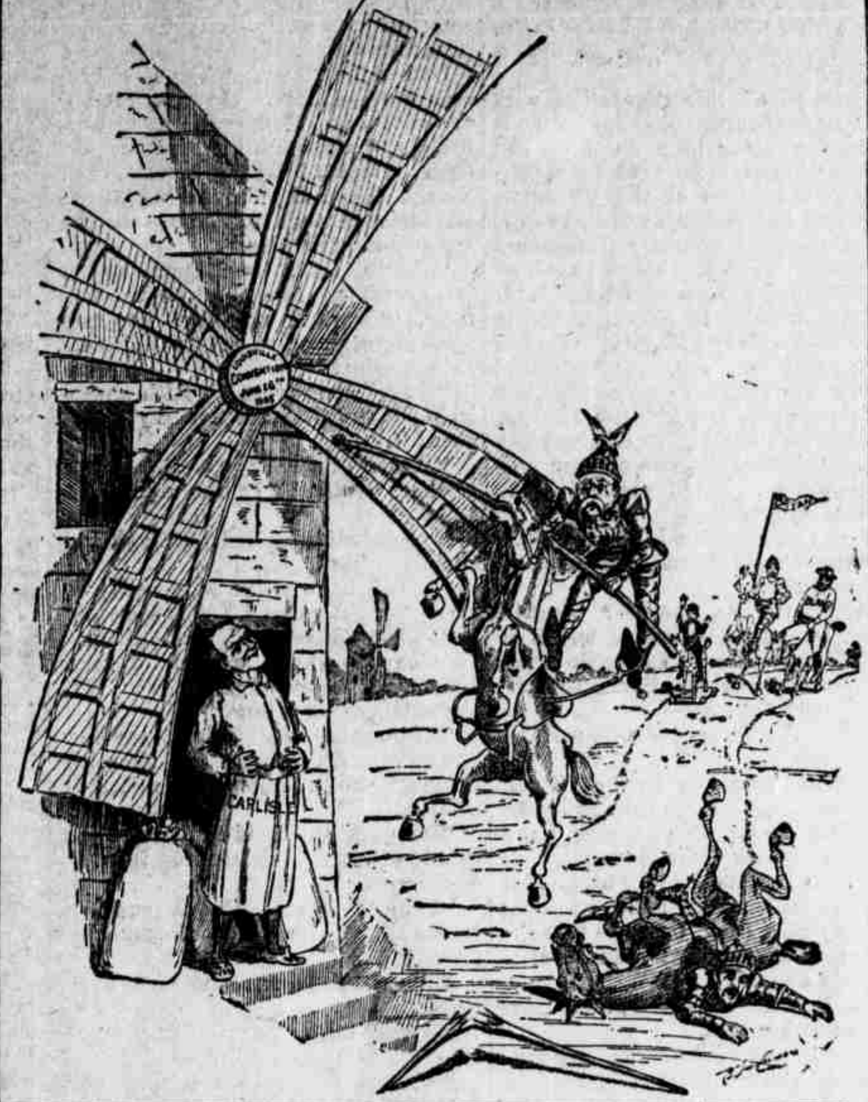
"About twenty-two years," answered the tourist.

"I think you're telling the truth. I can see the signs about you, right now, that you had something to do with the grime of 1873."

And Fellaire was so pleased with himself that he gave the frescoed vagrant a silver dollar and kicked him off the premises.—Chicago Tribune.

The Silverites are being pushed hard by sound money arguments.

A GREAT DAY FOR THE BLUE GRASS DON QUIXOTE.



HARVEY'S SEE-SAW BIMETALLISM

It is due to Mr. Harvey to commend the frankness with which he sets forth the financial feast to which we are invited. He suggests:

"They say it is not bimetallism unless the two metals stay at exact parity of 16 to 1. These men do not know what bimetallism is. It may be desirable to let one metal go (out of circulation?), as it would be now. With both as primary money we may have bimetallism and bimetallic prices, whether one metal has a tendency to leave us more than the other or not. And, if desirable to stop its leaving, a change in the ratio will do it, and, if necessary, can do it so as to set the other metal going, so that we can feed Europe either metal we may choose."

BIMETALLIC EXERCISE.

Bimetallism and bimetallic prices with silver alone in circulation—gold having left us, with the blessed privilege on our part to buy it back if we will change our coinage ratio so as to pay more for it, and of dumping our silver in Europe if, by the same change, we offer it cheaply enough—and with the money end of every transaction at the sport of Congress, Mr. Harvey is altogether too modest in claiming a return only to the times of our fathers. There would be actually involved a relapse to the times of the patriarchs.—Hon. John DeWitt Warner, in Forum.

Canada as an Object Lesson.

The cheap money faddists claim that prices depend on the amount of money in each country. They tell the farmer that wheat and cotton are low because money is scarce, and that doubling the currency would double prices. So much for theory. Now for facts.

Canada has about 5,000,000 population, and about $10 per capita of money. According to the silverites the price of all kinds of goods should be at least fifty per cent. lower in Canada than in this country, where we have over $20 per capita. But everybody knows that prices in both countries are practically the same for nearly all kinds of goods. Of course in parts of Canada remote from markets farm produce is lower than in the neighborhood of our great cities. But there is just as much difference between the prices of products in, say South Carolina, and in Connecticut. So it is not the value of currency which makes the difference. In some lines of manufactured goods prices are even higher in Canada than in the United States. This proves that the theory of the cheap money men has no actual basis, but is merely a guess as to the real cause of high or low prices.

A GOOD ARGUMENT.

The following letter addressed to the New York Herald puts the silver question in a clear light:

To the Editor of the Herald:

Prior to 1873 we had free coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1.

Yet a gold dollar, composed of 25.8 grains of standard gold, was intrinsically worth three cents less in 1873 than the silver dollar containing 412½ grains of standard silver.

Now, if the free coinage of gold by the United States at the ratio of 1 to 16 at a time when gold was admitted to free coinage in all the civilized Nations of the globe could not maintain the gold dollar on a parity with the silver dollar, would the free coinage of silver now at the same ratio maintain silver on a parity with gold?

If a difference of three cents in the dollar against gold could not be overcome when gold was admitted to free coinage all over the world, can it be reasonably expected that a difference of fifty cents in the dollar against silver could be overcome by the free coinage of the latter metal in this country alone? If by the concensus of Nations the market price of silver can be established so as to fix and maintain a parity between it and gold, at the ratio of 16 to 1, why did not that same consensus of Nations maintain gold at a parity with silver at the same ratio in 1873?

In the light of facts thus briefly referred to, can it be doubted that it is the metal which gives value to the coin and not the coin which gives value to the metal? Whatever law is placed upon the statute books of the country, there can, in fact, be but one standard of value.

If we drive 600,000,000 gold dollars out of circulation it would take fifteen years to coin a like number of silver dollars to take their place, and as the purchasing power of a silver dollar would only be one-half that of gold, 1,200,000,000 silver dollars would be required to supply the deficit created by the retirement of gold. Our mints, working to their fullest capacity, would need thirty years to coin $1,200,000,000. If, as claimed by the silver men, there exists a scarcity of money, how can they want to increase that scarcity so much that it will take thirty years to restore the existing status?

LEO N. LEVI.

Galveston, Texas, July 3, 1895.

Not for the South.

The Huntsville Mercury does not believe that the people of the South will commit themselves to the unlimited coinage of silver. It says:

"Our people are honest if not wealthy and want every dollar paid to them to be worth 100 cents. They have no silver to coin and cannot possibly feel an interest in the Western silver mines. If the Government is to go into the wholesale business of guaranteeing prices, the farmers of the South had far better work for cotton than silver. This Government has the same right to say that a pound of cotton shall be worth ten cents that it has to say than 371¼ grains of silver shall be worth $1."

The press of the South is overwhelmingly against unconditional silver coinage because it would be silver monometallism, and Southern newspapers have sense enough to realize the disastrous results that would bring upon us.—Atlanta Journal.

Sound money and free silver, like oil and water, will not mix.

HONEST MONEY.

THOSE WHO POSSESS IT ARE NEVER CHEATED.

The Measuring Character of Money, and Not Its Volume, the True Test of Its Value as a Medium of Exchange.

Sound money is only another name for honest money, inasmuch as it never cheats any one having it. The definition, then, of a sound dollar, is one that when melted or broken into small bits will have a value practically equal to that it claimed as a coin. Applying this rule, it is easy to see that the gold dollar of the United States is a sound and honest dollar, and, intrinsically, the silver dollar is both an unsound and a dishonest coin, inasmuch as its value when melted is but fifty per cent. of its nominal legal value. So long, however, as the Government redeems the unsound silver dollar in the sound gold dollar, without discount, it invests the silver dollar with the attribute of soundness which belongs to the gold dollar. This is true also of the representative money, otherwise called paper money, and at this time we may say truthfully that all the money in circulation in the United States is sound. The important thing is to keep it sound.

We hear much about the volume of money in circulation. As a matter of fact, the quantity of money in circulation at any time is not of the slightest consequence to anybody so long as it is all sound money, for, unless interfered with by law, there will be at all times a sufficient volume. The evils of a short supply or the calamity of a redundant supply of sound money are readily overcome by the rates of interest, which attract or repel as they rise or fall, and the volume of trade is increased or diminished, the use of money increasing or diminishing accordingly.

It is a favorite idea that a large amount of money advances the price of all commodities. This is only true to such a trifling degree that it is not worthy of notice. If confined to one Nation—speaking, of course, only of sound money—it very soon adjusts itself by distribution over the whole world, and the advance in prices is scarcely discernible. Of course, if the volume of money over the world was doubled, profits would adjust themselves, and on a level much higher than that which they occupied before; the measuring character of money, therefore, is the all-important thing; its volume will take care of itself. Money is rarely used in our time as a medium of exchange, but in every transaction it is a measure of value. In earlier times money passed between traders in settlement of every transaction, while now money is used in perhaps not over one trade out of every twelve; and in these coin is not used in one transaction out of a dozen; so that coin does not appear as an agent of exchange in more than 1 per cent. of the business of the country. But as it is the measure of value in every instance, it is a hundred times more important that we have honest (sound) money than that we undertake to control the volume by law. If a buyer were uncertain as to whether he would receive twenty-four, twenty-eight, or thirty-six inches for a yard, business would be greatly restricted at the establishment using the India-rubber yard-sticks. For the same reason, silver, having such a changing, uncertain value, would be to-day a worse currency for the United States than a humbler instrument having a fixed value. Gold has now its own way, and has earned the right to be, in every enlightened land, the sole, unlimited unit of value, and because the commodity value of gold changes very little.

"But," says one, "why not have two units of value?" Why not? Simply because under a system of legal tender values, where the debtor has the choice and the creditor has no right to discriminate in the material in which payment is made, the debtor will invariably pay in the dollar made from the cheapest material. If, therefore, our mints were thrown open to the free unlimited coinage of legal-tender silver, all our gold would disappear, and business would go from a 100 to a fifty per cent. basis, with silver as the exclusive measure of value. If we then coined copper at the rate of fifty or forty cents per dollar, copper coin would take the place of silver.

If sound money secures us at all times a proper supply of money, why should we be disturbed about volume? Nations that have the smallest volume of currency do the largest business, and accumulate the most wealth, and are in every respect in the most prosperous condition.

The duty of the hour is to stand [illegible] right and justice, and for the h[illegible] and good faith of the Nation[illegible] number of honest men who s[illegible] ant, and of the rascals, has [illegible] over-estimated, and the f[illegible] est money will not be s[illegible] one. If the free coi[illegible] compelled to organi[illegible] own, their number[illegible] culously small—[illegible] haps, by cor[illegible] army.—Hon[illegible] Ohio.